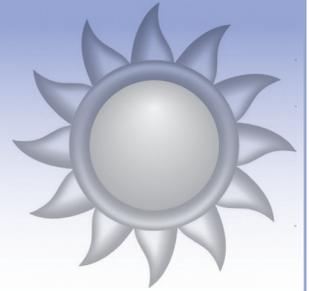




Have a
Wonderful
Summer!



Assemblyman Miller Introduces Legislation to Grant Additional Vets Priority for Vending Licenses

Dear Friends,

This past legislative session proved to be a success through the passage of an on-time 2014-2015 state budget. The state budget provides much-needed tax relief while working to create jobs and ensure a better economic outlook for New York State. The budget also makes a commitment to invest in our kids' education in addition to making needed reforms to Common Core. The spending plan totals \$138 billion and continues the state's fiscal discipline by holding spending growth to less than 2 percent for the fourth consecutive year.

Further, I am honored to announce that I was appointed Chairman of House Operations for the New York State Assembly. As we move forward to the next legislative session in Albany, I will continue to fight for our community to ensure we have the resources to thrive in 2015 and in the future. I am here working for you twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week to address any issues or concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact my district office for more information regarding any of the items listed. I look forward to hearing from you all and I wish you well.

Sincerely,

Mike Miller
Member of Assembly

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On May 26th, Assemblyman Mike Miller visited the Glendale Memorial Triangle in Glendale to honor the troops who gave their lives in service to our country. Above is a picture of Assemblyman Mike Miller along with Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan (D-Ridgewood), Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village), and honored veterans including Evo Riguzzi and Grand Marshal Charles Dunn.

Assemblyman Miller introduced Assembly Bill 9304 that would grant mentally disabled veterans priority for vending licenses issued by the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). Current law limits the number of vending licenses in circulation, but allows for the unlimited issuance of licenses to physically disabled veterans. Currently, veterans with mental disabilities such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, are not recognized under New York State's definition of disabled. Given this oversight, these veterans are not eligible to receive preferential vending permits from the DCA as their fellow physically disabled veterans do – effectively deferring them into the much more limited general pool.

Assembly Bill 9304 would amend the definition of "disabled" to include all veterans that are diagnosed with mental disabilities by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and would appropriately qualify these deserving American heroes for preferential vending permits.

Assemblyman Miller Introduces Legislation to Implement Dedicated Crossing Time for Pedestrians



In an effort to increase pedestrian safety and in conjunction with Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero program, Assemblyman Miller has introduced Bill A9473, which would address the dangerous traffic conditions for pedestrians in New York City. Assemblyman Miller met with Queens DOT Commissioner Dahlia Hall to advocate for dedicated crossing time for pedestrians, wider medians on Woodhaven Boulevard and Jamaica Avenue, and better signage along Jamaica Avenue. Woodhaven Boulevard is amongst the most dangerous roads for pedestrians to cross in Queens. The allotted time given to cross Woodhaven Boulevard is nowhere near enough time to allow to pedestrians to cross safely. In addition, excessive speeding has resulted in many pedestrian fatalities and the need for dedicated pedestrian crossing times has only increased. This legislation presents an opportunity to increase pedestrian safety and require the Department of Transportation to dedicate crossing time solely for pedestrians, during which all vehicular traffic is stopped.

Assemblyman Miller Helps Pass State Budget that Invests in New York's Future

Provides \$1.5 billion in tax relief, spurs economic growth, makes historic investment in education and child care, delays aspects of Common Core

"The final state budget agreement reflects the Assembly Majority's commitment to the working families of New York," Assemblyman Miller said. "It provides essential funding to educate our kids, continues to alleviate the tax burden on families and helps create a better economic environment that will create jobs."



Assemblyman Miller visited I.S. 77 located at 976 Seneca Avenue in Ridgewood to recognize the school's Students of the Month. Above is a photo of Assemblyman Miller and Principal Joesph Miller.

Historic Investment in Education

The 2014-15 state budget increases school aid by \$1.1 billion, or 5.4 percent, which is \$551 million over the executive budget proposal (A.8556-D).

Included with this increase is \$251 million in additional funding for Foundation Aid and \$602 million in restorations to the Gap Elimination Adjustment (GEA), helping to reduce the negative financial impact on schools statewide.

"Every child in New York deserves to benefit from a great education,"

Assemblyman Miller said. "With an increase in school aid of more than 5 percent, significant funding for statewide full-day Universal Pre-K and a bond act proposal to modernize classroom technologies, this year's state budget represents New York's largest investment in our children's future in recent memory."

Increased Education Funding for NYC Schools

The 2014-15 state budget allocates more than \$8.6 billion to New York City schools, an increase of over \$435 million more than last year and more than \$203.2 million over the executive budget proposal. The budget also dedicates \$300 million per year for two years for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) in New York City (A.8556-D).

"The future success of our children is dependent on how we prepare them for it today," said Assemblyman Miller. "Every child deserves to have a first-class education. This year's state budget makes a significant investment in education to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed."

Making College Education More Affordable

The 2014-15 state budget helps grow our higher education system by providing \$10.4 billion for SUNY and \$4.3 billion for CUNY. This year's budget also helps students and parents by increasing funding for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for the first time in 14 years and restores funding for other college opportunity programs (A.8556-D).

"The key to a bright and successful future is a college education," Assemblyman Miller said. "Making higher education accessible to everyone is one of my top priorities and that is why I'm disappointed an agreement couldn't be reached on the DREAM Act. While this year's final budget helps make that goal more attainable for some, I will continue to work to ensure it is attainable for all."

This year's state budget provides an additional \$20.2 million for community colleges, increasing base aid to SUNY and CUNY community colleges by \$75 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student, bringing the total to \$2,497 per FTE. This is the third consecutive budget increase in community college funding.

Reducing the Property Tax Burden

This year's budget also offers tax relief for New York City residents by providing \$85 million in tax credits for homeowners, condominium and co-op owners and renters by implementing a "circuit breaker" plan. The "circuit breaker" will run for 2 years and will factor in household income for the property tax break.

Keeping New York Affordable

In last year's budget, the Assembly fought to phase out the 18-a utility surcharge imposed on energy bills. This year's budget accelerates the phase-out, lowering the surcharge rates by \$200 million annually for both residential and commercial customers and \$600 million over the next three years.

"With utility prices climbing, it's more important than ever to reduce costs for consumers," said Assemblyman Miller. "The 18-a utility surcharge is an unnecessary burden on ratepayers. Driving more relief to homeowners is crucial, because speeding up the phase-out will ease the strain on already tight family budgets."



Assemblyman Mike Miller recognized the School Crossing Guards of the 104th Precinct for their valued service to our students and local schools. Above is a photograph of Assemblyman Mike Miller along with School Crossing Guard Lisa Aili and Community Board 5 Chairman Vincent Arcuri, Jr.

Helping Manufacturers

In an effort to attract more businesses to the state and create more local jobs, the budget provides tax incentives to manufacturing businesses looking to set up shop here in New York. One such incentive eliminates the income tax on manufacturers, saving businesses \$193 million dollars starting in 2014-15, creating jobs and revitalizing the economy.

"We are making it easier for manufacturers to do business here, so they can hire more workers," said Assemblyman Miller. "Whether it's cutting their property taxes or lowering their income tax rate to 0 percent, we are helping to encourage technological innovation and create the good-paying, high-quality jobs we need to put New Yorkers back to work."

Strengthening New York's Child Care System

The 2014-15 state budget provides funding to increase access to quality, affordable child care. The provisions include:

- \$34 million for more than 4,500 additional subsidized child care slots;
- disregarding the earned income of teenagers under 18 in the household for the purpose of determining a family's child care subsidy eligibility; and
- requiring child care providers to post their most recent inspection report in a prominent place.

"It has become nearly impossible for working families to find af-



On May 8, 2014 Assemblyman Mike Miller was honored at the Independence Residences Gatsby Gala Benefiting people with Developmental Disabilities at Russo's on the Bay Howard Beach. Above you will find a photo of Assemblyman Miller, Mr. Clifford Emmerich, Mr. Jean-Pierre Lardoux, and Executive Director of IRI Ray Denatale.

fordable and reliable child care," Assemblyman Miller said. "The state budget addresses New York's child care crisis so families don't have to break the bank to afford safe, nurturing care for their children."

Two Percent COLA for Caregivers of the Elderly and Disabled

The state budget includes \$13 million to support 2 percent salary increases for direct care workers, including those caring for the disabled at nonprofits licensed by the state. The first Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will take place on Jan. 1, 2015, and the second increase will go into effect on April 1, 2015. These caregivers assist the most vulnerable New Yorkers, and this pay increase will help ensure a well-qualified and adequately-staffed human services workforce, Assemblyman Miller noted.

"Direct care workers look after and assist those who need help the most," Assemblyman Miller said. "Their pay should reflect the enormous responsibility they take on at work every day."

Strengthening Housing Programs

"Obtaining affordable housing continues to be a struggle for many working families," Assemblyman Miller said. "The budget continues to support programs that help to solve this problem so every New Yorker has safe, quality housing available to them."

Specifically, the budget restores \$2.2 million to the Neighborhood and Rural Preservation programs. These programs aim to revitalize neighborhoods around the state to restore the vibrancy of communi-

Assemblyman Miller and State Senator Joseph Addabbo Host their Bi-Annual Recycle Day Event!



On Sunday, April 6th, from 10am-2pm, at The George Seuffert Sr. Bandshell parking lot inside Forest Park, Assemblyman Miller and State Senator Joseph Addabbo once again hosted their bi-annual Recycle Day event. Among the items collected were: clothing & textiles, electronics, paper, carpeting, household goods, book donations, and eyeglass donations.



On Friday, June 13th 2014, Assemblyman Mike Miller held an award ceremony at the Richmond Hill Block Association located at 110-08 Jamaica Avenue in Richmond Hill to recognize the hard work of school crossing guards throughout the year. Above is a photograph of Assemblyman Mike Miller along with 102nd Precinct Deputy Inspector Henry Sautner, Community Affairs Officer Jose Severino, and the crossing guards of the 102nd precinct.

ties, resulting in more affordable housing and an increased positive economic outlook, Assemblyman Miller noted.

The budget also restores \$742,000 in funding for the New York City Housing Authority Tenant Watch Program. In addition, the budget increases the income limit for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for a two-year period.

In addition, \$200,000 is provided for a grandparent housing study, which could shed light on the increasing occurrence of children living with a grandparent or elderly relative and its affordable housing implications.

Making Roadways Safer for Drivers

The budget agreement continues New York's efforts to crack down on those who text while driving by implementing stricter penalties on young and new drivers convicted of the offense. Upon first conviction, the driver will have their license suspended for 120 days, and upon a second conviction, their license will be revoked for a full year.

"Texting, talking or using your phone in any other way while driving is simply not safe for anyone on the road," Assemblyman Miller said. "New York continues to be a leader in curbing this dangerous behavior in order to save lives."

Assemblyman Miller Hosts a Mammography Van Event to Promote Breast Cancer Awareness!



On Saturday, May 3rd, Assemblyman Mike Miller held a Mammography Event in front of his district office located at 83-91 Woodhaven Blvd. in Woodhaven, Queens. A mobile care clinic van provided No-Cost Digital Mammograms and clinical breast exams to constituents. Above is a photo of Assemblyman Mike Miller, nurses from the mobile care van, and some constituents that were in attendance.

Assemblyman Miller Introduces Pieces of Legislation to Make Eid and Diwali Recognized NYC Public School Holidays



On March 12th, Assemblyman Mike Miller hosted the Bangladeshi American Advocacy Group's (BAAG) Annual Lobby Day in Albany. The Executive Board of BAAG was brought to the Assembly floor for introduction during session, BAAG received an Assembly Resolution in honor of their years of advocacy on behalf of Bengali-Americans, and BAAG was able to meet with Speaker Sheldon Silver. Above you will find a photo of Assemblyman Mike Miller, the BAAG Executive Board, and Speaker Sheldon Silver.

Assemblyman Miller announced that he has introduced two pieces of legislation (A9565 & A6815) that would establish the Diwali and Eid holidays as New York City public school holidays. New York is home to a wide variety of religions and ethnicities, each with their own set of holidays and festivals. When such holidays and festivals fall on school days, many teachers, and parents are required to choose between a school absence or not celebrating important cultural or religious observances. New York is home to many residents of South-Asian descent. Allowing such school holidays demonstrates the importance of New York's cultural diversity and the significance of its South-Asian community. This recognition is already afforded to other ethnic and religious groups in New York.



“Allowing such school holidays demonstrates the importance of New York’s cultural diversity and the significance of its South-Asian community.”



Assemblyman
**Michael
Miller**

Reports to the People

SUMMER 2014

NYS Assemblyman Mike Miller Secures Funding to Install Security Cameras in Forest Park

In an effort to combat increased safety concerns in Forest Park, Assemblyman Miller secured \$250,000 dollars in state funding for the installation of security cameras in Forest Park in Woodhaven. The installation of these cameras is in response to repeated attacks in the vicinity of Forest Park including the August 26th rape of an elderly female jogger. In conjunction with Queens Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandoski, Assemblyman Miller has agreed upon specific entranceways into Forest Park to install the security cameras.

The security cameras will be installed at the following locations:

- The Corner of Park Lane South and Woodhaven Boulevard
- 80th Street and Myrtle Avenue
- The Visitor's Center on Woodhaven Boulevard
- Forest Parkway and Park Lane South

- Freedom Drive and Myrtle Avenue
- The Forest Park Bandshell
- Buddy Monument (Myrtle Avenue and Park Lane South)

“Forest Park is over five hundred acres and although our local precincts have been doing their best to patrol the area, it is unrealistic to think that every acre of this park can be patrolled at all times. The local residents have voiced their concerns regarding safety within Forest Park and securing this funding was a top priority. Although these cameras are a small part of future plans to improve safety in the area, the installation of these cameras will serve as a deterrent for those who wish to commit criminal acts in and around the vicinity of Forest Park. In addition, should another incident occur, these cameras will help provide police officers with an image of the perpetrator to help them during their investigation”, said Assemblyman Miller.